



The Hermes Consortium for Literary and Cultural Studies

## Possible Worlds: Environment, Community, Heterotopia

University of Siena -  
Arezzo Campus, June 12-16, 2023  
Viale Cittadini, 33 - Palazzina Donne, Room 3

### Monday, June 12

#### 5.30 pm - Opening session

Keynote lecture – Chair: Guido Mazzoni

Thomas Pavel (University of Chicago), *Being in Touch with Fictional Characters*

8 pm - Welcome dinner at the Osteria dei Mercanti (piazzetta Sopra i Ponti, 9)

### Tuesday, June 13

#### 9:00 am - PANEL 1 – Chair: Jens Kugele

Mikkel-Theis Paulsen, “*Si yo tuviera oro, no le comiera, aunque me diera mil vidas*” – New World Gold in Early Modern Spanish and English drama

Edward Djordjevic, *Taking Nothing Seriously: Gulliver’s Travels and the Paradoxes of Utopia*

Kacper Radny, (Im)possible world: Communal Imagination and its Imagined Environment

#### 11:00 am - PANEL 2 – Chair: Ângela Fernandes

Tianran Zhang, *Vehicle as Heterotopia: Modernities and Women’s Identities in Mrs Dalloway and Sealed off*

Lavinia Mannelli, *Possible New Women. The Question of the Futurist Woman from History to Utopia*

Tim Gupwell, “*We live in a multiple universe*”: other dimensions in D.H. Lawrence’s Non-fiction

LUNCH ON CAMPUS

**2:30 pm - Keynote lecture** – Chair: Simona Micali

Maria Boletsi (Leiden University & University of Amsterdam), *Weird Futures: The Weird Turn and Future Thinking*

**4:50 pm - Guided tour to Medieval Arezzo** (piazza San Francesco)

## Wednesday, June 14

**9:00 am - PANEL 3** – Chair: Martin Prochazka

Isabella Kalte, *Imagining the Other Side: Caribbean Neo-slave Narratives as Heterotopic History*

Ndubuisi Martins Aniemeka, *Animist Realism and Possible Worlds: Re-reading off Ben Okri's The Famished Road*

Telma Carvalho, *Two moments in chinese Sci-fi: works of Tong Enzheng and Zheng Wenguang before and after the Cultural Revolution*

**11:00 am - PANEL 4** – Chair: Pablo Valdivia

Cristina Garcia Miguel, *Magical Realism and the Reconstitution of Fractured Worlds: Kafka on the Shore, narrative psychotherapy, and healing*

Agnetha Bennedsgaard, *Liberating alienation across borders*

Martina Altalef, *Esse cabelo, by Djaimilia Pereira de Almeida: Capillary Autofiction, Reparation and Possible Futures*

LUNCH ON CAMPUS

**2:30 pm - Keynote lecture** – Chair: Luca Baratta

Emily Baker (University College London), *Culture, Inequality and Queer Ecology: Constellations, Tentacles and Cyborgs in Contemporary Speculative Fiction*

**4:30 pm - PANEL 5** - Chair: Letizia Cirillo

Juulia Jaulimo, *Possible Impossibilities: Fictional Worlds and Time-Travel Narratives*

Buket Boz, *Women of the Nocturnal Other Worlds: Night, Speculative Imagination and Solidarity in Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale and Haruki Murakami's After Dark*

Yiorgos Podaropoulos, *An elsewhere devoid of elsewhere thinking: Allotopia instead of heterotopia in Sotiris Dimitriou's The Silence of the Dry Weed*

## Thursday, June 15

**9:00 am - PANEL 6** – Chair: Anneleen Masschelein

Michela Davo, *Junkspace and literature*

Candace Goodrich, *How a Geocritical Study of Redwoods Country during the Timber Wars Illustrates the Modal Realities of the Environmental Crisis*

Théo Maligeay, *Ideal cities: from Arcosanti, Arizona to Alviso, Ecotopia*

**11:00 am - PANEL 7 – Chair: Heta Pyrhönen**

Nicola Giansiracusa, *Mendeleev as the Muse: Science and Renarration in Primo Levi's Il sistema periodico*

Bogdan Groza, *Developments of an anthropocentric future in Philip K. Dick's dystopias*

Jonathan Barnes, 'Nova corpora': *Ovidian metamorphosis and its EcoGothic reception*

LUNCH ON CAMPUS

**3:00 pm – Masterclasses – Library Building, Floor 1, Rooms 2, 3, 51**

Tiziana de Rogatis (University for Foreigners of Siena), *Heterotopia, Trauma and Storyworld in The Handmaid's Tale*

Florian Mussgnug (University College London), *The Last Possible World? Anthropocene, Apocalypse, Affect*

Karen-Margrethe Simonsen (University of Aarhus), *Afrofuturism: Reshaping Imperial Pasts for the Future. On Anachronisms and Transhistorical Dynamics*

**Friday, June 16****9:00 am - Hermes Business Meeting – Sala Leopoldo di Lorena****11:30 am - PANEL 8 – Chair: Ellen Sapega**

David Lea, *The post-literary era: transmedia and interaction as a paradigm of digital reality - Janicza Bravo's @Zola*

Eric Wistrom, 'Glocal' literary agency and prosthetic community in Facebook's Petite Cendrillon amoureuse du Prince du Ghetto

Teun Joshua Brandt, *The Holobiontic Figure: Narrative Complexities of Multispecies Characters in Joan Slonczewski's Brain Plague*

LUNCH ON CAMPUS

**14:30 pm - PANEL 9 – chair: Florian Mussgnug**

Aslihan Yucel, *A New World in the Shadow of the Old: Neo-Capitalism in Fallout 3*

Cristina Ogando, *The worlds of tomorrow. Video games as speculation about the future that awaits us*

Johannes Valentin Korff, *World Shapes Stigma: The interplay between World-Building and Ethnic Stigma in Role-Playing Games*

**16:30 pm - Final remarks**

# University of Siena

## Doctoral School in Philology and Literary Criticism



International Graduate Centre  
for the Study of Culture



## Hermes 2023 Faculty

Fernando Cabo, Ângela Fernandes, Jean-Michel Ganteau, Jens Kugele, Anneleen Masschelein, Simona Micali, Florian Mussgnug, Martin Prochazka, Heta Pyrhönen, Ellen Sapega, Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Pablo Valdivia

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Luca Baratta, Alessandra Carbone, Michela Dovo, Bogdan Groza, Lavinia Mannelli, Simona Micali, Niccolò Scaffai